



School for Rudolf Steiner Education  
Newsletter • Term 2 2017 • Week 05

***The following article is re-printed from  
Waldorf Today.com***

## **The Gift of Play: Reflections of a Waldorf Nursery Teacher**

By Kam Anderson, Beach Rose (USA) Nursery  
Teacher

I continue to be amazed by young children, their wonder and joy for life is infectious. However, they are still just landing and growing so rapidly. Four years of life go quickly for us as adults and yet for many of our children they were just a parent's dream.

I have been thinking about this quality of play and imagination that live so deeply in young children. It is a precious gift and one that is not offered at any other time in a human being's life. How do we as a culture and as parents and caregivers honor and support this time of childhood?

### **What's the rush?**

When children are in the womb the process of growth is nurtured and certainly not hurried. Mothers are encouraged to eat well, exercise and rest. Taking care of the mother is vital to a developing baby. We certainly don't rush this process and in fact have the mother rest when it seems that the baby might arrive too early.

However when the baby is born our culture seems to promote a different focus. Now the baby is encouraged to move along with a quicker pace. If a child can be upright and moving more quickly then perhaps this child will be brighter, better prepared for life in a way. There is a sense of impatience and even anxiety if a child is unfolding too slowly.

As parents and caregivers it can seem that our role when the children are young is to encourage and stimulate. I thought about how a child has grown for hundreds of years even thousands of years in a consistent way. A young child completes three vital tasks between birth and three which makes them truly human; they learn to walk, they learn to talk and they gain the capacity to have their own ideas or thoughts (I do it! Sound familiar?). If they are raised in an environment where they can imitate these capacities of walking and talking and being engaged with life then they do indeed complete the tasks without any real "help" or stimulation unless, of course, they have developmental issues.

### **Through play children learn what it means to be human**

Children who are three going on four have recently completed these basic developmental tasks and now their imagination is waking up. Why is this imagination and free play so important? It seems at times in our culture frivolous, useless even. Play in our culture is often seen as something to be done if there is time. Our modern early childhood programs now have pre-K children preparing for Kindergarten by learning numbers, letters and if they can read then even better. So why are we having our children play for large chunks of the day?

I have been observing children in play for many years and my reflections are that through play children are learning and experiencing in a deep and profound way what it means to be human.

Young animals play to learn about how to hunt, to be still, to be agile etc... skills for their life as adult animals. Children are learning to be human by playing as well. They experience their environment and then like eating a bit of bread they chew up their experience until it is in tiny bits and so digest it and then release it through their activity of play. Young children engage with the world through their bodies, and their senses. Anything that surrounds a young child is fodder for play.

### **Imaginative play**

Imaginative play is vital for children since it allows them to gain experience and to make sense of the world. Here they learn what it means to be human. They watch the street cleaners, the fire fighters, the fishermen, the carpenters etc... and it then informs their play. Our culture is now providing fewer real images for children to imitate as our ways to work become less connected to the earth and daily needs. The baker, the miller, the cobbler etc... are becoming past images. Anytime we engage in work the children can see helps them engage and experience life. In my class we water plants because they need our care, we bake, we chop carrots, we shovel snow and pull weeds.

I so enjoy watching the children in my class catch clams, fish, build houses, care for babies, tend to domestic animals that need our care, and make pancakes. These are all activities of real daily life. When play revolves around these community activities often the play hums along and transforms from one event to another. There is an understanding of being able to sink into these human activities.

### **How media influences play**

As I continue to ponder play I notice when play can get too exciting and chaotic. This happens often when their play is difficult to really imitate. Often this can involve media images like Batman or another superhero. They put on their capes and they are off running but to

what? They are fighting bad guys but who are the bad guys?

Children this young just don't have the capacity to see life in a dual way. They are sorry when they hit a friend in an impulsive moment and we as caregivers help them with this process. They are still growing into their awareness as separate beings from others. These media images are often so intense that they can over-stimulate and so make a child get stuck in their play so they have to replay the experience or image again and again and again as a way to make sense of it, to digest it and make it their own experience.

### **Preserving the magic**

When we as caring and excited teachers and parents bring our adult knowledge to a young child it too can do the same thing as media. It can jam up their play. Perhaps we are interested in cars, or sports or wild animals and so we bring our knowledge through instruction and so the little ones have so many images for example about how cars run, how they are made, the models of cars and so they can get stuck. When another child says "lets get in the car and drive to Grandmas" the child immersed in cars can say "wait no you can't drive that car" or "no it needs a certain kind of gas" etc... The child is losing the magical ability to be in the moment of free play and instead gets stuck in the content that the young child is just not ready developmentally to use. Then this child can lose their dreaminess, which is important to imaginative free play.

### **The gift of time**

Finally my last reflection is the gift we can give at this age of time. There is truly plenty of time although our culture begs to differ. A child at this age is using a huge amount of energy to grow, we call it etheric forces. If a child is tired, hungry, over-stimulated etc... these forces get used up more quickly and it can be difficult for children to be able to play. Their sense of life gets affected, they just feel off.

The most important gift we give to children now is time to grow and be physically solid and healthy. Time to use their bodies and be active through play and healthy movement like walks, climbing, etc... We as parents and teachers need to trust that they have all they need and we can protect and nurture this time of wonder and openness by creating solid rhythms, rituals and tending to their bodily and emotional care.

These are just my reflections as a teacher for many years. I feel honored to continue to watch little ones unfold each in their own special way. They are all wonderful beings and teach all of us adults the riches of life.

### HIGH SCHOOL ~ ENGLISH



Class 12 students have just completed their critical study of William Butler Yeats' poems: 'When you are Old', 'The Wild Swans at Coole', 'An Irish Airman Foresees his Death', 'Easter 1916', 'The

Second Coming', 'Leda and the Swan' and 'Among School Children'.



This included a close study of the poems and a careful consideration of the affect of both public and private context on Yeats. Students responded personally to the poems and formed their own opinions and interpretation of the poems. They built up a picture of Yeats' early life and the significant people in it, as well as some of Yeats' cosmology and the place of Gyres.

Finally, students showcased their detailed knowledge of the set poems in a prepared speech.

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

### Please help us find a home for Fudge...

Fudge (on the right in the photo) was born on school grounds and has been kindly cared for by Catherine and her family, but is ready now to find to find his fur-ever home.



Fudge is a gentle boy who has been around children.

He is wormed, micro-chipped and vaccinated, so \$100 to cover those costs

would be appreciated if you can give him a home.

If you are interested in adopting Fudge, or you know someone who would like a feline friend, please contact Catherine on 0405 248 139.

### WANTED:

Donations of **100% PURE WOOL** would be appreciated by the Craft Group, and can be left at the office. Thank you!

## SCHOOL NOTICES & REMINDERS

### SCHOOL FEES

Invoices for Term 2 have been distributed via email.

**If you have not yet received your fees invoice** (do check your junk-mail folder!), **please advise us via [lorienar@lorien.nsw.edu.au](mailto:lorienar@lorien.nsw.edu.au)** . Thank you!

### SCHOOL PHOTOS

All parents should have received an invitation email from Stine for access to your child's photo gallery. If you have any queries, please email [stine@stinebaska.com](mailto:stine@stinebaska.com)

Please also note, as Stine is currently overseas, any orders placed now will not be delivered until the end of term.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD 2018 ~ NEW ENROLMENTS

Parents are requested to please submit Expression of Interest forms as soon as possible for younger siblings you would be looking to enrol into Early Childhood classes in 2018:

- PreSchool – Birth year 2014
- Little Kindy – Birth year 2013
- Kindergarten – Birth year 2012

Forms are available on the website under 'Enrolments', or at the office. Thank you.

### PARENT LIBRARY

Membership is \$20 (one-off payment). Visit on Fridays from 2.45-3.30pm in the Library or send enquiries to [melissahm@lorien.nsw.edu.au](mailto:melissahm@lorien.nsw.edu.au)

### MUSIC TEACHERS

For individual lessons to Classes 4 and up\*\*

*If your child would like to commence private tuition,  
please contact Barbara Webb to discuss options and costs.*

♪ <b>Barbara Webb</b>	violin	<b>0416 058 752</b>	<b>bwebbmusic@gmail.com</b>
♪ Kevin Adams	guitar, ukulele, drums	0405 482 310	bwebbmusic@gmail.com
♪ Timothy Teylan	saxophone & clarinet	0423 619 053	
♪ Harry Day	trumpet		
♪ Su Choung	piano	0430 130 451	su.choung@gmail.com
♪ Adrienne Alexander	flute	0423 514 412	adrienne@magicmirror.com.au
♪ Sabella Osborne	singing	0435 910 807	sabellavalerie@gmail.com

***Education is not the filling of a pail, but rather the lighting of a fire.***

*William Butler Yeats 1865 - 1939*



## MARKET DAY IS HERE!!

### THIS SATURDAY 27th MAY

The air is clear, the sun is shining and it's finally here, the first market day for this year!

The weather is set to be great and fun will be had by all!

Why not come along and enjoy a warming Chai with Nick and Yia at the Tantric Turtle.

Buy a few bottles of your favourite Duck Cottage soaps ~ their liquid laundry detergent is fantastic!

We are introducing 'Earth Angels', who will be selling the finest quality handmade raw organic chocolates, handmade exquisite natural candles, and fine, all natural crystal trinkets such as charms and sun seals.

Be entertained by the lovely tones of local musician Ruby French, wander a while, then relax with your children over lunch at the Rainbow cafe.

We can't wait to see you all there!

Unfortunately our Warrah Farm friends are unable to make it along this market day, but they would love to hear from people wishing to join their co-op. Borja or Rob can advise you about the benefits of consuming certified organic/biodynamic produce for you and your family, and by ordering through the co-op you will get a

15% discount on all products. Contact Borja for all information: [bvalls@warrah.org](mailto:bvalls@warrah.org)

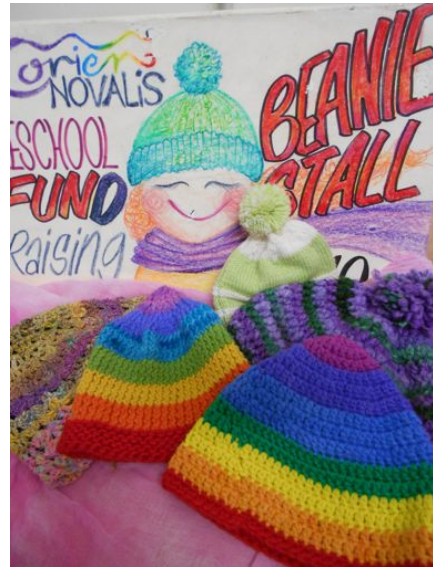
*\* If you are interested in having a stall at our next market in November or know of any interested parties, please contact the market committee :*

[lorienmarkets@hotmail.com](mailto:lorienmarkets@hotmail.com)

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## HANDMADE BEANIES FOR SALE

**\$10 each**



**PreSchool have their annual fundraising venture in progress.**

**Look for their sale table each morning at the top of the hill...**

### HIGH SCHOOL - CASUAL TEACHERS

Lorien Novalis School would welcome the submission of a short resume from qualified High School teachers, especially from teachers qualified to teach to Stage 6 in Mathematics, English or Science. Teachers with other subject qualifications are also welcome to apply.

When submitting your resume please include:

- a brief description of your qualifications and experience, together with
- a statement of your main subject areas, and
- your Working With Children Check number.

Please list your availability for casual teaching and provide your contact details.

Submissions can be made via the school office: [info@lorien.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@lorien.nsw.edu.au)

## FROM THE PRESCHOOL WINTER FESTIVAL SONG BOOK:

### *Star light Star Bright*

*Star light, star bright, shine your bright white light tonight.*

*Sun star, Earth star, shining through the darkest night.*

*Through the Winter, through the night, Deep in my heart shine your light.*

*Through the Winter, through the night, Deep in my heart shine your light.*

*Star light star bright...*



*Playgroup spiral walk, 2014*

### *All Is Still*

*All is still, we gather round a tiny light,  
On the shortest day and longest night,  
And as we watch our spiral grow,  
Our hearts and eyes begin to glow.*

## LOOK UP...

If you have been down the hill past Kindergarten this term, you might have noticed a transformation on the roof of the gazebo.



The maintenance team took on the task last holidays of creating a 'green roof' to replace the old and failing shingles.

The roof was lined, drainage pipe was laid around the perimeter, then TONS of soil were carried up the ladder, bucket by bucket, to create a garden bed for the planting of ground covers. They plants are gradually spreading, so keep an eye out for the emergence of bright red flowers ~ up above!



# Parents & Friends Association

COMMUNITY • SUPPORT • FUNDRAISING

You can contact the P&F at any time  
by email: [pandf@lorien.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pandf@lorien.nsw.edu.au)

## P&F MEETINGS

7.30pm Novalis College Room

Mondays evenings:

Term 3 ~ 24<sup>th</sup> July

Term 4 ~ 16<sup>th</sup> October

**ALL WELCOME !**

## FACEBOOK GROUPS:

- Lorien Community: [www.facebook.com/groups/LNSCommunity](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LNSCommunity)
- Buy/Swap/Sell/Promote your Business:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/LNSSellSwapGiveAway/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LNSSellSwapGiveAway/)
- Lorien Novalis Alumni page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LNSAlumni/>

## MALLORN TREE P & F SHOP

Tuesday to Friday:  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
Thursday & Friday:

## OPENING HOURS!

9.00 -10.00 am  
2.00 – 3.00 pm  
2.30 – 3.30 pm



## LORIEN FAIR 2017



## NEXT PLANNING MEETING:

**WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 7.30pm**

If you can assist in ANY way please contact the P&F: [pandf@lorien.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pandf@lorien.nsw.edu.au)



OUR CRAFT GROUP ARE BUSY PREPARING WONDERFUL ITEMS TO SELL AT THE SCHOOL FAIR.

If you can help, **craft packs are available from the office** for you to complete at home.

Or feel free to **join the craft group** on any Friday 12.30-3pm in the Novalis College room.

All enquiries to [donna.sherman@bigpond.com](mailto:donna.sherman@bigpond.com)



## **2017 SCHOOL YEAR**

2017 School calendar/planners are available at the office

### **Term 2: Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Apr to Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Jun (9wk term)**

27 May Market & Information Day  
30 May Kindergarten Parent Meeting 7.30pm  
1-2 Jun Class 4 overnight trip to Rainbows End  
21 Jun Class 9 Play (Shakespeare) 7pm (Performance Hall)  
22-23 Jun Winter Festival  
29-30 Jun Staff PD Days

### **Term 3: Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Jul to Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep (10wk term)**

23-28 July Class 5 Snow Trip  
24 Jul P&F Meeting 7.30pm (Novalis College)  
26 Jul-6 Aug Senshu HS (Japan) cultural visit  
2 Sep Fair Day  
4-22 Sep Class 9 Trip (Central Australia) Dates TBC

### **Term 4: Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Oct to Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec (9wk term)**

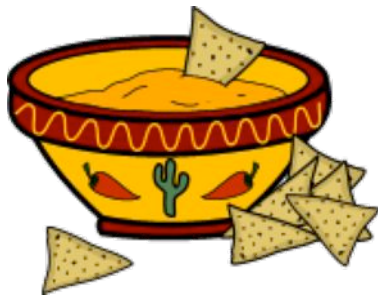
16 Oct P&F Meeting 7.30pm (Novalis College)  
30 Oct – 14 Nov Class 6 Trip (NW Island)  
11 Nov Market & Information Day  
19-24 Nov Class 10 Tall Ship Sailing trip  
25 Nov Major Works Presentations  
1 Dec PUPIL FREE DAY (for Open Day setup)  
2 Dec Open Day

## **2018 TERM DATES**

Term 1: Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Jan to Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Apr (10wk term)  
Term 2: Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Apr to Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jun ( 9wk term)  
Term 3: Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Jul to Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Sep ( 9wk term)  
Term 4: Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Oct to Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Dec (10wk term)

### **CLASS 7 ~ FRIDAY FUNDRAISER LUNCHES**

For Classes 2 & up..



**This week:**

**NACHOS (meat or vege) & SALAD \$3.50**

***Please bring a plate & cutlery!***

**ICY CUPS \$2**